

REMARKS

Examiner is thanked for allowance of claims 12-19. Claims 12-27 are pending in the present application. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested. Claim 24 is cancelled and its limitations are incorporated into claim 20. Favorable reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

I. 35 U.S.C. § 102, Anticipation

The examiner has rejected claims 20-23, 26, and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Hashimoto and separately by JP 10-146799. This rejection is now believed moot in light of the current amendments.

Applicant has amended independent claim 20 to include the limitations of claim 24, which Examiner indicated is allowable. Therefore, claim 20 and all its dependent claims are believed distinguished from the cited references. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

II. Objection to Claims

The objection to claims 24 and 25 is now believed moot.

III. Conclusion

It is respectfully urged that the subject application is patentable over the cited references and is now in condition for allowance.

The examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

DATE: 12-19-03

Respectfully submitted,



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